

National Radon Action Month, 2004

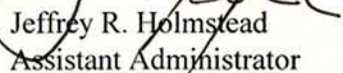
During National Radon Action Month, our Nation is reminded of the serious danger that radon gas poses to us in our homes. The National Academy of Science estimates that radon causes between 15,000 and 22,000 U.S. deaths from lung cancer annually and the U.S. Surgeon General has warned that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after cigarette smoking.

Protecting the health of all Americans against the natural environmental threat of radon gas begins with testing your home.

Radon is a natural radioactive gas released in rock, soil, and water from the natural decay of uranium. It is colorless, odorless, and tasteless. Fortunately, scientists have provided tools to help protect us from radon through the use of a simple test to determine the level of radon in our homes, as well as schools and other buildings. Testing to measure for this dangerous gas in the indoor air we breathe is inexpensive and effective. If elevated levels of radon are detected, a variety of mitigation strategies are available to help reduce peoples exposure.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is working hard in concert with other Federal, State, and volunteer organizations to educate Americans about the radon health threat. There is much we can do to prevent its potentially fatal consequence. During National Radon Action Month, I encourage all Americans to join in this crucial effort and learn more about the health risk posed by radon, test for it, and when warranted take steps to reduce your exposure to it.

As Assistant Administrator of the Office of Air and Radiation in the United States Environmental Protection Agency, I urge the recognition of the month of January 2004, as National Radon Action Month. I encourage our partners and programs to honor this observance with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.


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